

Strand Historic District,
Merchants Mutual Insurance Company Building
2317-2319 Strand
Galveston
Galveston County
Texas

HABS No. TX-3296 K

HABS
TEX
84-GALV,
38K-

PHOTOGRAPH

HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20243

4065 1000 1000 1371

STATE TEXAS		COUNTY GALVESTON	TOWN OR VICINITY GALVESTON
HISTORIC NAME OF STRUCTURE (INCLUDE SOURCE FOR NAME) MERCHANTS MUTUAL INSURANCE COMPANY BUILDING			HABS NO. TX-3296 K
SECONDARY OR COMMON NAMES OF STRUCTURE			
COMPLETE ADDRESS (DESCRIBE LOCATION FOR RURAL SITES) 2317-2319 Strand			
DATE OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE SOURCE) 1870		ARCHITECT(S) (INCLUDE SOURCE) Unknown	
SIGNIFICANCE (ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORICAL, INCLUDE ORIGINAL USE OF STRUCTURE) This was the first structure in Galveston to use the French Renaissance style with the mansard roof. The original building, constructed in 1869, burned shortly after completion. It is believed that the present structure was identical to the recently (See continuation sheet)			
STYLE (IF APPROPRIATE) French Renaissance			
MATERIAL OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE STRUCTURAL SYSTEMS) Brick load-bearing walls.			
SHAPE AND DIMENSIONS OF STRUCTURE (SKETCHED FLOOR PLANS ON SEPARATE PAGES ARE ACCEPTABLE) The building is three-and-one-half stories in height with a six-bay facade.			
EXTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE The front facade contains an iron arcade on the ground floor composed of a four-bay center section with two-over-two light sash windows separated by simple columns. This section is flanked by entrances with similar surrounds and surmounted by pediments. The second and third floor windows are capped by labels and the mansard is pierced by a dormer and flanking portal windows.			
INTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE (DESCRIBE FLOOR PLANS, IF NOT SKETCHED) Unknown			
MAJOR ALTERATIONS AND ADDITIONS WITH DATES The large cornice that separated the wall facing from the mansard is now removed. The labels above the windows have been replaced since the time of the photo.			
PRESENT CONDITION AND USE Good			
OTHER INFORMATION AS APPROPRIATE			
SOURCES OF INFORMATION (INCLUDE LISTING ON NATIONAL REGISTER, STATE REGISTERS, ETC.) File with the Galveston Historical Foundation, Galveston, Texas.			
COMPILER, AFFILIATION Kent R. Newell, Historian, Historic American Buildings Survey			DATE 9/23/80

SIGNIFICANCE: (continuation from page 1)
destroyed building.

Merchants Mutual Insurance Company was founded in 1866 with John D. Rogers, president, Leon Blum, vice-president, and Henry Sampson, secretary. The firm occupied a building that burned in December of 1869. Their new building was begun in March of 1870. Halff, Weis and Company, a wholesale clothing house, founded in 1872, shared the building in 1874. Shortly thereafter, Merchants Mutual ceased operations and the building was purchased in 1881 by I. Lovenberg and Halff, Weis and Company, which had continued there.

The firm had an office and its factory in New York City at 466-468 Broadway. Felix Halff and Albert Weis were the founders with Robert Weis a member of the company. The Weis brothers were natives of Germany and in 1885 the firm was reorganized as the Weis Brothers. In 1887 they occupied the building opposite the old Greenleve, Block and Company building.